

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: NEW ENGLAND GAS COMPANY
GAS COST RECOVERY CHARGES

DOCKET NO. 3436

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 39-1-1, 39-1-11 and 39-3-11 of the General Laws, as amended, the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) will conduct a hearing on **Friday, April 29, 2005 at 1:00 P.M.** in the first-floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission, 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island. The hearing may continue thereafter from day to day and time to time as required.

In this docket, the Commission reviews the New England Gas Company (“Company”) Gas Cost Recovery (“GCR”) factors. The GCR factors allow the Company to reconcile and recover its estimated costs for gas supplies, including the cost of pipeline transportation and storage capacity. At this hearing, the Commission will consider the propriety of the Company’s April 1, 2005 filing seeking to increase: (1) the GCR factors for all firm sales service rate classes, and (2) the Natural Gas Vehicle rate to \$0.737 per therm. The proposed GCR factors would be in effect from May 1, 2005 to October 31, 2005. The proposed GCR factors on a per therm cost basis are: \$0.95036 for Residential and Small C&I customers; \$0.94287 for Medium C&I customers; \$0.95209 for Large Low-Load Factor C&I customers; \$0.93281 for Large High Load Factor customers; \$0.97332 for Extra Large Low Load Factor customers; and \$0.90966 for Extra Large High Load Factor customers. The impact on a residential heating customer using 239 therms per over six months, May through October, is an increase of approximately 4.9 percent, or \$17. The impact on all other customers will vary based upon rate class and consumption. The Commission can approve different rates that may be higher or lower than those proposed by the Company.

The filing is on file for examination at the Commission's office and at the office of the New England Gas Company, 100 Weybosset Street, Providence, Rhode Island. The filing can also be accessed on www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/3436page.html.

Reference is made to Chapters 39-1, 39-3 and 42-35 of the Rhode Island General Laws; specifically Sections 39-1-7, 39-1-8, 39-1-11, 39-1-12, 39-1-16, 39-1-18, 39-1-20, 42-35-8 and 42-35-10.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION IS ACCESSIBLE TO THE HANDICAPPED. INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING INTERPRETER SERVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED MUST NOTIFY THE COMMISSION CLERK'S OFFICE AT 941-4500, SEVENTY-TWO HOURS IN ADVANCE OF HEARING DATE.

Luly E. Massaro
Commission Clerk
April 19, 2005